

December, 2000

"The Canyon of 60 Abandon"

We were enduring monsoon conditions at the aptly named Del Lago resort near Houston TX. It was mid-November, 1998, and we conferees were house-bound: our hotel an almost inaccessible island as a new lake surrounded us..

Inside, storyteller Michael Meade caught and kept my attention. His tale was of a place where, when one reached the age of 60, the rules of the culture required banishment to a far away "Canyon of 60 Abandon"

The story, told in chapters over two days, struck home with me: I was in the middle of my 59th year, contemplating possible retirement.

In Michael's village, one family violated the rules, hiding their elder under the porch. A puzzle came forth from the king, who offered a great prize to whoever could solve it. It was only this family, using the accumulated wisdom of their elder, who were able to solve the puzzle. They won the prize.

The metaphorical village in Michael's story was our own American society.

For me, age 60 and retirement came this year. It's been a truly great year.

There definitely is a "Canyon of 60 Abandon", but it is nowhere near as stark as I had imagined. There are, I am finding, incredible riches in that canyon - not in money so much as in the accumulated wisdom and caring existing there. And there remain many willing to hide me and others like me under their porch.

Resolve to visit often those in the canyon in 2001. You'll be glad you did.



There is a Canyon of 60 Abandon in your communities.
What does it look like?

What are strategies to get more people under the porches of the town?